

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catalyst support ~~consisting mainly of~~ comprising synthetic silica, with 0.5 - 10 parts of one or more oxides or phosphates of the elements of group IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides ~~characterized in that the support preparation method comprises, whereby the support is prepared by~~ mixing particulate synthetic silica with particulate oxides or phosphates of the elements of Groups IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, or with precursors thereof, a ~~forming~~ shaping step and a calcination step, which forms a finished support having particulate oxide or phosphate domains.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A catalyst support according to claim 1 ~~consisting mainly of synthetic silica, with 0.5—10 parts by weight of~~ wherein the oxides or phosphates of the elements include titania and/or zirconium dioxide ~~characterized in that the support preparation method comprises mixing particulate synthetic silica with particulate titania and/or zirconium dioxide or with precursors thereof, a forming step and calcination.~~

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the content of synthetic silica in the calcined support is at least 80% by weight based on the total weight of the support.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 2 1, wherein at least 50% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 2 μm .

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 2 1, wherein at least 50% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 1 μm .

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 22 4, wherein at least 50% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 0.8 μm .

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 22 4, wherein at least 90% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 0.8 μm .

Claim 8 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the synthetic silica comprises pyrogenically produced silica.

Claim 9 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the synthetic silica consists entirely of pyrogenically produced silica.

Claim 10 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the synthetic silica comprises silica gel.

Claim 11 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the titania comprises pyrogenically produced titania.

Claim 12 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the titania consists entirely of pyrogenically produced titania.

Claim 13. (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the titania comprises precipitated titania.

Claim 14 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the titania consists entirely of precipitated titania.

Claim 15 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the zirconium dioxide comprises pyrogenically produced zirconium dioxide.

Claim 16 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the zirconium dioxide consists entirely of pyrogenically produced zirconium dioxide.

Claim 17 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the zirconium dioxide comprises precipitated zirconium dioxide.

Claim 18 (Original): The catalyst support according to claim 1 wherein the zirconium dioxide consists of precipitated zirconium dioxide.

Claim 19 (Original): A process for the preparation of a catalyst support according to claim 1, which comprises mixing particulate synthetic silica with 0, 5 to 10 parts by weight of particulate oxides or phosphates of the elements of Groups IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, or with precursors thereof, based on the total weight of the support, prior to the forming step, a forming step and calcining the formed material between 400 and 1050 °C.

Claim 20 (Original): A process for the preparation of a catalyst support according to claim 2, which comprises:

mixing particulate silica, with 0.5 to 10 parts by weight of particulate titania and/or zirconium dioxide or with precursors thereof, based on the total weight of the support, prior to the forming step;

a forming step and calcining the formed material between 400 and 1050 °C.

Claim 21 (Original): The catalyst containing 5-55 wt. -% of phosphoric acid, based on the total weight of the dried catalyst, supported on a catalyst support accordint to claim 1.

Claim 22 (New): The catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the domains titania and/or zirconium dioxide.

Claim 23 (New): The catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the domains are distributed throughout the support.